

OCT 19 2004

EXPEDITED EXAMINING PROCEDURE

PATENT  
Docket No. 56733US002IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): MITTLESTADT et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/888,732 )  
Confirmation No.: 2092 )  
Filed: June 25, 2001 )  
For: RESPIRATOR VALVE )

Group Art Unit: 3743  
Examiner: Andrea M. Ragonese

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Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
Attn: Examiner Andrea M. Ragonese  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Mueting, Raasch &amp; Gebhardt, P.A.

19 OCTOBER 2004  
Date

By: KW Raasch  
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19 October 2004  
Date

Signature: Rachel Gagliardi-Gebhardt  
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**OFFICIAL**  
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Group Art Unit 3743PATENT  
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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Final Office Action mailed August 20, 2004 has been received. Claims 1, 3, 7-11, 13-21, 34-46, 49-53, and 56 remain pending. Claims 34-42 have been indicated as allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 7-11, 13-21, 43-36, 49-53, and 56 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Applicants note that claims 34-42 have been indicated as allowable.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 7-11, 13-21, 43-46, and 56 were provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-18 of co-pending U.S. Patent App. No. 09/888,943. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.